

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2009

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Mayor Healy & Governor Corzine to Cut Ribbon on 40 Units of 'Green' Affordable Housing in Jersey City Development Will Include 9,000 SF of Retail Space in the Heart of the Martin Luther King Drive Redevelopment Zone

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the **Municipal Council**, Governor Jon S. Corzine, and other city officials will join with representatives of **Genesis Companies, LLC** to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2009** at the **Webb Apartments** on **450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive**.

Mayor Healy and **Genesis Companies, LLC** broke ground on the Webb Apartments in May 2007. The **\$12.3 million project** will be completed this spring and was funded through a \$1.5 million federal Home grant. The City additionally provided city-owned land toward this much-needed affordable housing project.

Webb Apartments are the first 100 percent affordable green and LEED-certified building in the State of New Jersey. The five-story, mixed-use building will house 40 affordable rental units for families and approximately 9,000 square feet of commercial space. Above the ground floor retail space will be four residential floors comprised of 16 one-bedroom units, 8 two-bedroom units, and 16 three-bedroom units. The project is located within the boundaries of the Martin Luther King Drive Redevelopment Plan.

The Webb Apartments are also registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency as an Energy Star building. All appliances in the building are Energy Star. The apartments will use approximately 20 percent less energy than standard buildings, thereby reducing strain on limited public resources as well as translating into savings for working families in Jersey City.

(more)

(2)

The apartments are located near the Martin Luther King Drive Light Rail Station for ease of transportation to Jersey City's many stores and restaurants.

"It is projects such as the Webb Apartments that result in the creation of more affordable housing for our residents that are so important in Jersey City," said **Mayor Healy**. "My administration and I continue to work hard to make Jersey City greater and more affordable for all of our residents."

Mayor Healy honored **Genesis Companies, LLC**, the architectural firm behind the Webb Apartments, with the City's first annual "Green Building Awards" in 2008. Also honored were **Franklin Development Group** for their **Harriet Tubman Homes**, **Goldman Sachs** for **30 Hudson Street**, the **Jersey City Housing Authority** for the **Pacific Court Townhouses** and **Woodward Terrace**. The recipients of the award were chosen for their commitment to building "green" and sustainable development projects in Jersey City.

"Why build green in Jersey City?" asked **Mayor Healy**. "The environmental, economic, and social benefits of building 'green' structures will conserve and restore our nation's natural resources, enhance the occupant's comfort and health, and improve overall quality of life for our residents."

Genesis Companies, LLC also received the Urban Redevelopment Award from the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority for its use of innovative strategies to achieve the Webb Apartments LEED-Certification. Additionally, **Karim Hutson**, founder of Genesis Companies, LLC, was named a Top Young Developer by Real Estate New Jersey for his work on the Webb Apartments.

Genesis Companies, a member of the US Green Building Council, specializes in environmentally sustainable and energy efficient mixed-use development projects.

"We want to create meaningful living environments that enhance communities and optimize financial value through unique partnerships, sustainable building principles, and integrated technology," said **Karim Hutson**, Founder of Genesis Companies, LLC.

Genesis received \$801,000 loan from the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA) to fund costs associated with Webb Apartments.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

###